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ABSTRACT

This document consists of four separately-published fact sheets providing information, derived from U.S. government sources, about the condition of Hispanics in the United States. The first, "Hispanic Children, Poverty, and Federal Assistance Programs," describes the status of Hispanic American children and the federal programs designed to help them. The second, "Hispanic Employment and Earnings Fact Sheet," shows the employment rates and income averages for Hispanic men and women in the United States. Information gathered for this report shows that Hispanics had the lowest median personal income and remained the poorest group of U.S. residents in 1996. "Hispanic Male Fact Sheet" presents details about the employment, education, and health status of Hispanic men in the United States. "Hispanic Poverty Fact Sheet" contains information about Hispanic Americans and poverty. Taken together, these fact sheets paint a picture of a group with less education on the average, lower income, and higher overall poverty rates than other minorities in the United States. The numbers of Hispanic American children are increasing, but their educational, poverty, and health status is not. (SLD)

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NCLR Census Information Center Fact Sheets

Hispanic Children, Poverty, and Federal Assistance Programs (October 1996)

Hispanic Employment and Earnings Fact Sheet (October 1997)

Hispanic Male Fact Sheet (December 1997)

Hispanic Poverty Fact Sheet (January 1998)

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October 1996

Hispanic Children, Poverty, and Federal Assistance Programs

Overview

Hispanic children are a rapidly growing and increasingly poor population group in the United States. Since 1980, the Hispanic child population has nearly doubled, from 5.7 to 9.7 million, and as the number of Hispanic children has increased so has the number and proportion of Hispanic children living in poverty.¹

With the Social Security Act of 1935 and the anti-poverty programs of the 1960s, a number of federal programs were established to help combat child poverty. These include the now block-granted Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, which provided cash payments to families in which one parent was absent, incapacitated, unemployed, or deceased; Food Stamps, which increases the food purchasing power of eligible low-income households; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which provides food and nutritional assistance to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under age five; Medicaid, which provides medical assistance to low-income persons who are aged, blind, disabled, and members of families with dependent children; and school lunch programs. However, while Hispanic children may benefit from these assistance programs, the state of Hispanic children in the U.S. continues to worsen.

Population Profile

- ❖ **Hispanic children are a significant portion of the total Hispanic population.** In 1995, over one-third (35.8%) of the total Hispanic population was estimated to be under age 18, a larger proportion than either the Black (32.4%) or White populations (25.0%).¹
- ❖ **The Hispanic child population has risen dramatically since 1980, and will soon become the largest minority population under age 18.** Between 1980 and 1995, the Hispanic population under age 18 increased by 70.3%, while the number of Black and White children increased 13.4% (from 9.5 to 10.7 million) and 3.8% (52.5 to 54.5 million), respectively, over the same period. Furthermore, the number of Hispanic children is projected to grow by 28.9% (to 12.5 million) by 2005, as compared to 9.9% for Black children (to 11.8 million).¹

Poverty

- ❖ **Poverty among Hispanic children is severe and has been steadily increasing.** In 1995, two-fifths (40.0%) of Hispanic children lived below the poverty level, compared to 16.2% of White children and 41.9% of Black children. In fact, since 1980 the number of poor Hispanic children has increased by an average of approximately 6.0% each year, compared to 1.7% annually for White children and 1.3% annually for Black children.² Overall, since 1980 Hispanic child poverty has increased by 133.3% (1.7 to 4.1 million), compared to 25.1% (7.2 to 9.0 million) for White children and 20.2% (4.0 to 4.8 million) for Black children.¹

¹ Percentages were computed by NCLR using Census numbers in thousands.

² Average annual increases were reached by first computing the percentage changes year-to-year, and then dividing the total by the total number of years (16).

Hispanic Children, Poverty, and Federal Assistance Programs

Poverty Cont.

- ❖ **Hispanic families with children continue to experience substantially higher poverty rates than families without children.** In 1995, over one-third (33.2%) of Hispanic families with children were poor, compared to 12.1% of Hispanic families without children. In comparison, 12.9% of White families with children and 34.1% of Black families with children lived in poverty, compared to 4.0% and 11.3% of White and Black families without children, respectively.¹
- ❖ **Regardless of family type and when compared to non-Hispanic families, Hispanic families with children are more likely to live below poverty.** In 1995, 57.3% of Hispanic female-headed families with children lived in poverty, compared to 35.6% of comparable White families and 53.2% of comparable Black families. Likewise, Hispanic married-couple families with children (22.6%) are three times as likely as comparable White families (7.0%), and twice as likely as comparable Black families (9.9%), to be poor.

Federal Assistance Programs

- ❖ **A large proportion of Hispanic children received AFDC.** In 1994, 21.2% of AFDC recipient children, or 2.1 million children, were Hispanic, compared to 33.0% for White children and 37.9% for Black children. Since 1990, the percentage of Hispanic AFDC recipient children increased 3.5 percentage points, while the percentage of White and Black AFDC recipient children decreased 0.1 and 3.5 percentage points, respectively.
- ❖ **A substantial number of Hispanic mothers receive Food Stamps and WIC benefits.**³ In 1993, one in four (25.3%) or 1.1 million Hispanic mothers age 15 to 44 received Food Stamps, compared to about one in three (33.2%) or 1.9 million Black mothers and one in nine (11.2%) or 3.2 million White mothers. In addition, 12.3% of Hispanic mothers age 15 to 44 (or 0.5 million) were WIC recipients in 1993, compared to 10.3% of Black mothers (or 0.6 million) and 6.1% of White mothers (or 1.7 million).
- ❖ **The majority of Hispanic school age children participate in school lunch programs.** In 1994, more than one-half (55.2%) of Hispanic school age children, or 3.8 million children, received free or reduced-priced school lunches, a proportion larger than that of White school age children (23.6%) and similar to that of Black (57.4%).
- ❖ **While Hispanic children represent a significant number of Medicaid recipients, they are still more likely than any other racial group to lack health insurance.**⁴ In 1995, over one-third (37.4%) of Hispanic children received Medicaid benefits, a much higher proportion than White children (18.3%), and a lower proportion than Black children (45.4%). However, in 1995 more than one-quarter (26.8%) of all Hispanic children were not covered by any form of health insurance, compared to 15.3% of Black children and 13.4% of White children.

Sources

U.S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1995, U.S. Bureau of the Census; *Population Projections of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995 to 2050*, U.S. Bureau of the Census; *Poverty in the United States: 1995*, U.S. Bureau of the Census; AFDC Data, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Statistical Briefs, U.S. Bureau of the Census; and Health Insurance Data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

3 Since Hispanic households are about three times more likely to be poor than non-Hispanic households, the receipt rate that is twice that of non-Hispanic households actually represents a relatively lower use of these benefits. Food Stamp and WIC data were broken out by race and Hispanic origin separately.

4 The term "health insurance" refers to both governmental coverage, i.e., Medicaid and Medicare, and private coverage provided by an employer, or union, or coverage purchased by an employee.

HISPANIC EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS FACT SHEET

October 1997

Overview

For the Hispanic community, economic well-being is directly related to employment, occupation, and earnings. Latino men continue to have the highest labor force participation rate and employment-to-population ratio of any group in the U.S., yet tend to be employed in low-wage, low-growth jobs; are underrepresented in professional and managerial positions; and experience high rates of unemployment. Hispanic women, on the other hand, are better represented in professional and managerial positions than Hispanic men and represent one of the fastest growing segments of the workforce, but still maintain the lowest labor force participation rates, highest unemployment rates, and receive the lowest wages of any worker group. Moreover, two important economic indicators also show that the employment status among Latinos needs improvement. **In 1996, Hispanics had the lowest median personal income and remained the poorest group of Americans (29.4% are poor, compared to 28.4% of Blacks and 11.2% of Whites).**

Employment Status

- **Hispanic men have the highest labor force participation rate and employment-to-population ratio of any group in the U.S.** In 1996, 79.6% of Hispanic men 16 years and over were either working or looking for work, a higher percentage than that of White (75.8%) or Black (68.7%) men. Central and South American men had the highest labor force participation rate of any Hispanic subgroup (82.3%), followed by Mexican-American (81.4%), Cuban (74.8%), and Puerto Rican (69.2%) men. In terms of employment, more Hispanic men (73.3%) than White (72.3%) or Black (61.0%) men were employed in 1996, and Central and South American men (76.5%) had a higher employment-to-population ratio than Mexican-American (74.8%), Cuban (70.0%), and Puerto Rican (63.3%) men.
- **The labor force participation rate and employment-to-population ratio for Hispanic women has remained steady, but below the rates for non-Hispanic women.** In 1996, 53.4% of Hispanic women 16 years and over were in the labor force, compared to 59.1% of White women and 60.4% of Black women. In 1990, the labor force participation rate for Hispanic women was 53.1%, while the rates for White and Black women were 57.4% and 58.3%, respectively. In 1996, Central and South American women had the highest labor force participation rate (59.0%), followed by Cuban (53.3%), Mexican-American (52.8%), and Puerto Rican (48.5%) women. Hispanic women also had lower employment levels than either White or Black women, 47.9% compared to 56.3% and 54.4%, respectively, while Central and South American women had the highest employment-to-population ratio of all the Hispanic subgroups (54.1%), followed by Cuban (48.9%), Mexican-American (47.0%), and Puerto Rican (43.2%) women.
- **The Hispanic unemployment rate has declined in recent years, but the difference between Hispanic and White unemployment rates has remained relatively unchanged.** Between 1992 and 1996, the Hispanic unemployment rate fell 2.5 percentage points (from 11.4% to 8.9%), while the White rate decreased 1.8 percentage points (6.5% to 4.7%) and the Black rate 3.6 percentage points (14.1% to 10.5%). However, despite comparable levels of workforce participation, the



Hispanic unemployment rate is still 1.90 times the White rate, slightly higher than in 1992 at 1.75 times. Hispanic men have experienced a significant decline in unemployment over the last five years, as have Black men, with their respective rates falling 3.8 (11.7% to 7.9%) and 4.1 (15.2% to 11.1%), compared to a 2.3 percentage point decline (7.0% to 4.7%) in the White male rate. In contrast, the Hispanic female unemployment rate has dropped the least since 1992, 1.2 percentage points (11.4% to 10.2%), which is much less than either the males unemployment rates or the White (6.1% to 4.7%) and Black (13.2% to 10.0%) female rates. As a result, the Hispanic female unemployment rate is currently over twice (2.17 times) the White rate, compared to 1.88 times in 1992.

Occupations

- **Hispanic men are concentrated in low-wage occupations, which are expected to experience little or no growth over the next decade.** In 1996, 27.7% of employed Hispanic men worked as operators, fabricators, and laborers, and 19.4% worked in precision production, craft, and repair occupations. Hispanic men have the lowest percentage (12.1%) of persons employed in managerial and professional specialty positions, with 28.4% and 16.9% of White and Black men employed in this area, respectively. Furthermore, between 1994 and 2005, the share precision production, craft, and repair occupations and operators, fabricators, and laborers comprise of total occupations is expected to decline 0.8 and 1.1 percentage points, respectively.
- **The majority of Hispanic women are in lower-wage service and technical, sales, and administrative support occupations, but a growing proportion also hold managerial and professional positions.** Nearly two-fifths (38.4%) of employed Hispanic women worked in technical, sales, and administrative support occupations in 1996, and one-fourth (25.0%) were employed in service occupations. The share of Hispanic women in managerial and professional specialty occupations (17.4%) was higher than that of Hispanic men (12.1%) in 1996, and higher than in 1990 (14.7%). In contrast, 31.5% of White women and 22.7% of Black women held managerial and professional positions. By 2005, administrative support occupations as a percent of total occupations are estimated to decrease 1.5 percentage points, and service occupations to increase 1.3 percentage points.

Earnings

- **Both Hispanic men and women have disproportionately low median earnings levels overall, and even within the same occupations.** In 1996, median earnings per week for Hispanic men working full-time were \$356, two-fifths (61.4%) that of comparable White men (\$580) and less than that of comparable Black men (\$412). Furthermore, median weekly earnings for full-time Hispanic female workers were \$316 in 1996, compared to \$428 and \$362 for comparable White and Black women, respectively. The earnings differential is even more apparent when contrasting weekly wages by race/ethnicity. A comparable percentage of Hispanic, White, and Black men and women are employed in technical, sales, and administrative support occupations, and yet the median weekly earnings for full-time workers were \$428 and \$348; \$584 and \$396; and \$430 and \$374, respectively.

Sources

U.S. Bureau of the Census; *Money Income in the United States: 1996*, September 1997; Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Characteristics of Black and Hispanic Workers*, September 1997; Unpublished labor force data provided by Jay Meisenheimer, Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 1997; U.S. Department of Labor, *Monthly Labor Review*, November 1995.

Overview

In 1997, the Hispanic male population totaled 15.0 million, accounting for 51.4% of the total Hispanic population and 5.6% of the U.S. population. The number of Hispanic men has increased by about 3.5 million, or 30.7%, since 1990, and is projected to increase 8.1% to 16.2 million by the year 2001, surpassing that of Black men at 16.1 million. In 1994, Mexican males represented the largest share of Hispanic men at 8.8 million (65.5% of the total Hispanic male population), with Central and South American, Puerto Rican, and Cuban males following at 1.9 million (14.1%), 1.3 million (9.6%), and 0.5 million (3.9%), respectively. Overall, Hispanic males tend to live within families, be younger, and be in the labor force, often working in less lucrative jobs than non-Hispanic males. In addition, Hispanic men have lower educational levels and are less likely to be covered by health insurance than non-Hispanic men, and the percent of Hispanic men in prisons has been steadily increasing over the past decade.

Family Characteristics

- ❖ **Hispanic males are generally younger than White and Black males.** In 1997, the median age for Hispanic males was 26 years, compared to 35 years for White males and 28 years for Black males. In addition, 35.2% of the Hispanic male population was under 18 years old that same year, compared to 25.9% of the White male population and 34.0% of the Black male population.
- ❖ **Hispanic men help head most Hispanic families.** In 1996, 67.6% of Hispanic families were headed by married couples, compared to 46.1% of Black families and 81.3% of White families.

Education

- ❖ **Hispanic men are less likely than White or Black men, and as likely as Hispanic women, to graduate from high school or college.** In 1996, 53.0% of Hispanic men 25 years old and over had completed high school and 10.3% had completed four or more years of college. In comparison, 82.7% of White men, 74.3% of Black men, and 53.3% of Hispanic women had graduated from high school, and 26.9% of White men, 12.4% of Black men, and 8.3% of Hispanic women had graduated from college.
- ❖ **Hispanic males are more likely than White or Black males, but less likely than Hispanic females, to drop out of high school.** In 1994, 8.4% of Hispanic males in grades 10-12 dropped out of high school. In contrast, the high school dropout rate was 4.6% for White males, 6.5% for Black males, and 10.1% for Hispanic females.

Labor Force Status

- ❖ **A higher percentage of Hispanic males are in the labor force and working than either White or Black males or Hispanic females.** In 1996, the labor force participation rate for Hispanic males 16 years old and over was 79.6%, and the employment-to-population ratio was 73.3%. In comparison, 75.8% of White males and 68.7% of Black males were working or looking for work; their employment-to-population ratios were 72.3% and 61.0%, respectively. By contrast, more than one-half (53.4%) of Hispanic women had a job or were trying to find one that same year; their employment-to-population ratio was 47.9%.
- ❖ **Among Hispanic subgroups, Mexican males have the highest labor force participation rate and employment-to-population ratio.** In 1996, 81.4% of Mexican males participated in the labor force and 74.8% were working. In comparison, the labor force participation rate was 74.8% for Cuban and 69.2% for Puerto Rican males; the employment-to-population ratios were 70.0% and 63.2%, respectively.

HISPANIC MALE FACT SHEET

- ❖ **The unemployment rate for Hispanic men is higher than that for White men, but lower than that for Black men, while Mexican males have the highest unemployment rate among Hispanic subgroups.** In 1996, the unemployment rate for Hispanic men 16 years old and over was 7.9%, compared to 4.7% for White men and 11.1% for Black men. The unemployment rate for Mexican males was 8.2% that same year, compared to 8.6% for Puerto Rican males and 6.4% for Cuban males.
- ❖ **Employed Hispanic males are more likely to work in labor-intensive, and less lucrative, occupations than non-Hispanic males.** In 1996, 27.7% of Hispanic males worked as operators, fabricators, or laborers and only 12.1% worked in the high-paying managerial and professional specialty occupations. In comparison, 28.4% of White males and 16.9% of Black males worked in the managerial and professional specialty occupations, and 19.2% and 31.1%, respectively, in operator, fabricator, or laborer occupations.

Income and Poverty

- ❖ **Hispanic male workers have lower median earnings than their non-Hispanic counterparts, and among Hispanic subgroups, Puerto Rican males have the highest median earnings.** In 1996, the median earnings for Hispanic male year-round, full-time workers was \$21,056, compared to \$32,966 for comparable White workers and \$26,404 for comparable Black workers. In 1993, the most recent subgroup data available showed that Puerto Rican men working year-round and full-time had median earnings of \$23,792, while comparable Cuban men had median earnings of \$23,749, Mexican men \$18,917, and Central and South American men \$18,147.
- ❖ **Hispanic males are more likely to be poor than non-Hispanic males, while Puerto Rican males are the poorest of all Hispanic subgroups.** In 1996, 26.8% of Hispanic males were poor, compared to 9.8% of White males and 24.7% of Black males. Furthermore, 33.0% of Puerto Rican males lived below the poverty level that same year, compared to 28.4% of Mexican males. (No such data exist for Cuban and Central and South American males.)

Health Status

- ❖ **Hispanic males are less likely to have private or government health insurance than White or Black males, but more likely to be covered by Medicaid than White males.** In 1996, 36.6% of Hispanic males lacked health coverage, while 17.7% were covered by Medicaid. In comparison, 15.8% of White males and 24.4% of Black males had no health insurance and 8.3% of White males and 21.7% of Black males were covered by Medicaid.
- ❖ **Hispanic men are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.** In 1997, 11.5% of the total U.S. male population was Hispanic, and 83.1% and 12.3% was White and Black, respectively. However, Hispanic men accounted for 17.3% of all adolescent and adult male AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1997, while White and Black males accounted for 50.1% and 31.4%, respectively.

Crime

- ❖ **The proportion of Hispanic male prisoners has been steadily increasing over the past decade.** From 1985 to 1995, the percentage Hispanics comprise of all prisoners under Federal or State jurisdiction increased from 10.9% to 15.5%. Although these data were not disaggregated by gender, given that men constitute the majority of all prisoners (92.6% in 1995), it appears likely that the increase in the proportion of all Hispanic prisoners has been fueled by growth in the incarceration of Hispanic men.

Sources

Bureau of the Census; Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Department of Education; U.S. Department of Commerce; U.S. Department of Justice; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Overview

Poverty remains a serious impediment to the overall well-being of Hispanics in the U.S. While data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that poverty has declined for Blacks since 1990, the Latino poverty rate has increased. According to 1996 statistics, Hispanics have the highest poverty rate of all Americans (29.4%), compared to 28.4% for African Americans and 11.2% for Whites. Of particular concern is that two in five (40.3%) Hispanic children are poor.

The principal segments of the Hispanic population that constitute the poor are: the working poor, single-mother families, Puerto Ricans, and children. The climb in poverty among these groups since 1990 can be explained, in part, by the following trends: consistently wide gaps in the educational attainment rates of Hispanics compared to Whites; the poor occupational placement of Latinos in the labor force; economic losses among Hispanic married-couple families; a comparatively slow increase in the labor force participation rate of Hispanic women, relative to other female workers; the gap between the unemployment rate of Hispanic and other male workers; and structural factors which hinder many Hispanics from benefiting from the economy.

Hispanic Poverty

- ❖ **Hispanic poverty rates remain high and have increased since 1990.** From 1990 to 1996, the poverty rate for all Americans decreased 0.2 percentage points to 13.7% in 1996, while Hispanic poverty increased 1.3 percentage points to 29.4%. In comparison, the poverty rate declined 3.5 percentage points to 28.4% for Black persons and increased 0.5 percentage points to 11.2% for White persons over that period. From 1990 to 1993, Hispanic, White, and Black poverty rates increased 2.5, 1.2, and 1.5 percentage points, respectively.
- ❖ **Poverty rates for Hispanic families with children also remain high.** The poverty rate for Hispanic families with children increased 2.0 percentage points to 33.0% between 1990 and 1996. In contrast, the poverty rate for comparable Black families decreased 3.1 percentage points to 34.1%, and increased 0.4 percentage points to 13.0% for comparable White families. Hispanic, White, and Black families with children suffered their highest levels of poverty during this period in 1993, at 34.3%, 14.5% and 39.3%, respectively.
- ❖ **Hispanic female-headed families are more likely than comparable White and Black families to be poor.** In 1996, more than one-half (50.9%) of Hispanic female-headed families were poor, a rate which has remained virtually unchanged since 1990. In contrast, the poverty rate decreased 4.4 percentage points to 43.7% for comparable Black families, and increased 0.5 percentage points to 27.3% for comparable White families, during the same time period.
- ❖ **Hispanic female-headed families with children are more likely than comparable non-Hispanic families to be poor.** By 1996, three out of five (59.7%) Hispanic female-headed families with children were poor, a proportion slightly higher than that in 1990 (58.2%). Both comparable Black and White families experienced a decrease in the poverty rate since 1990 (51.0% vs. 56.1% and 36.9% vs. 37.9%, respectively).
- ❖ **Hispanic families continue to be more likely than any other group to be "working poor."** In 1996, 12.4% of Hispanic families with at least one year-round, full-time worker were poor, compared to 6.6% of Black families and 2.8% of White families. Moreover, in 1996, among married-couple families where both the husband and wife worked year-round, full-time, Hispanic families were over four times as likely as White families, and almost one and one-half times as likely as Black families, to be poor (2.2%, 0.5%, and 1.6%, respectively).

HISPANIC POVERTY FACT SHEET

Poverty Among Hispanic Subgroups*

- ❖ **Puerto Ricans, especially families, have the highest poverty rate of all Hispanic subgroups.** In 1993, the most recent, complete subgroup data available showed that 38.4% of Puerto Ricans lived in poverty, followed by 31.6% of Mexicans, 25.3% of Central and South Americans, and 19.9% of Cubans. In addition, more than one-third (35.4%) of Puerto Rican families were poor in 1993, compared to 27.6% of Mexican families, 23.9% of Central and South American families, and 17.2% of Cuban families. Poverty has declined somewhat since then, but still remains high, as 35.7% of Puerto Ricans and 31.0% of Mexicans were poor in 1996.
- ❖ **Female-headed family poverty is high among all Hispanic subgroups.** In 1993, the most recent, complete subgroup data showed that three out of five (61.0%) Puerto Rican female-headed families lived in poverty. Moreover, one out of two (50.8%) Mexican, more than two in five (43.5%) Central and South American, and almost two in five (38.6%) Cuban female-headed families were poor. Likewise, in 1996, 60.7% of Puerto Rican and 52.4% of Mexican families headed by single mothers lived below the poverty line.

Hispanic Child Poverty*

- ❖ **Hispanic children suffer drastically high poverty levels and have shown little improvement since 1990.** In 1996, two in five (40.3%) Hispanic children were poor, compared to one in six (16.3%) White children and two in five (39.9%) Black children. This represents an increase of 1.9 and 0.4 percentage points among Hispanic and White children, and a decrease of 4.9 percentage points for Black children, since 1990.
- ❖ **Child poverty is high among all Hispanic subgroups but lowest for Cuban children.** In 1993, the most recent, complete subgroup data available showed that more than one-half (52.2%) of Puerto Rican children, nearly one-half (49.5%) of Mexican children, over two-fifths (42.4%) of Central and South American children, and almost one-quarter (24.0%) of Cuban children were poor. In 1996, 49.9% of Puerto Rican children and 41.0% of Mexican children lived in poverty.

Educational Level and Hispanic Poverty

- ❖ **Hispanics without a high school diploma are more likely than Whites, but less likely than Blacks, to be poor.** In 1996, 33.9% of Hispanics without a high school diploma lived below the poverty level, compared to 21.8% of Whites and 39.5% of Blacks.
- ❖ **Puerto Ricans householders without a high school diploma endure the highest poverty rate among Hispanic subgroups.** In 1993, 50.7% of Puerto Rican householders without a high school diploma lived in poverty. In comparison, 38.0% of Mexican householders, 36.5% of Central and South American householders, and 29.8% of Cuban householders without a high school diploma were poor.
- ❖ **Hispanic high school graduates are more likely than Whites, but less likely than Blacks, to be poor, and even a college degree does not totally eliminate poverty.** In 1996, 15.6% of Hispanic high school graduates were poor, compared to 8.3% of comparable Whites and 21.2% of comparable Blacks. Furthermore, among those with a college degree, Hispanics were the most likely to be poor; in 1996, 5.7% of Hispanics, 2.9% of Whites, and 5.0% of Blacks lived below the poverty line.

Sources

U.S. Census Bureau, *Poverty in the United States: 1996 and March 1994 Current Population Survey.*

* 1996 poverty data by subgroup do not include Cubans or Central and South Americans.



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